

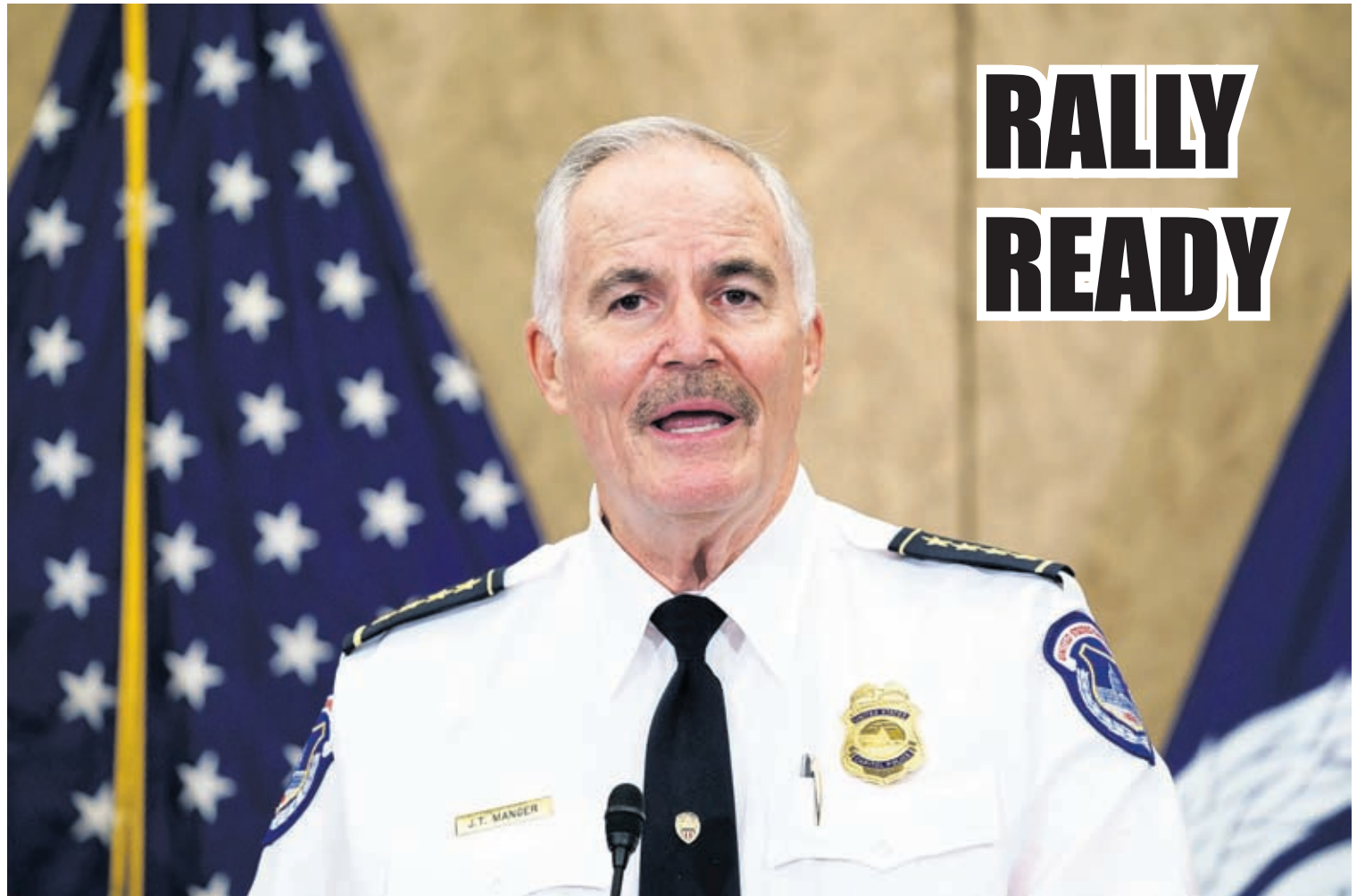
## Protest for jailed Capitol rioters: Police ready this time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Burned before, Capitol Police say they are taking no chances as they prepare for a Saturday rally at the U.S. Capitol in support of rioters imprisoned after the violent Jan. 6 insurrection. Though it is unclear how big the rally will be, the Capitol Police and Metropolitan Police Department are fully activating in an effort to avoid a repeat of the pre-inauguration attack. Under-prepared police were overwhelmed as hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters broke into the Capitol and interrupted the certification of Joe Biden's victory. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said at a news conference Friday it was difficult to say whether threats of violence at the event are credible, but he said that "chatter" online and elsewhere has been similar to intelligence that was missed in January. A permit for the protest allows 700 people.

Manger said he believes the most likely possibility for violence Saturday will involve clashes between



U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger holds a news conference to discuss preparations for a weekend rally planned by allies of Donald Trump who support the so-called "political prisoners" of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

the protesters and counter-protesters who may show up.

"We're not going to tolerate

violence, and we will not tolerate criminal behavior of any kind," Manger said.

"The American public and

members of Congress have an expectation that we protect the Capitol. And I am confident that the plan

we have in place will meet that expectation."

Continued on next page

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<b>PAULA RIDERSTAP</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>Happy Hour</b> 12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10		<b>KARAOKE</b> <b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 9:00 - 11:00pm	<b>WATER'S EDGE</b> RESTAURANT & BAR		

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**Continued from Front**

After multiple missteps in January, law enforcement is out in full force. The fence around the Capitol is back up, temporarily. Police are preparing for the possibility that some demonstrators may arrive with weapons. The D.C. police department is at the ready, and U.S. Capitol Police have requested assistance from nearby law enforcement agencies.

The rally, organized by former Trump campaign strategist Matt Braynard, is aimed at supporting what the rally's organizers call the "political prisoners" of the Jan. 6 insurrection — about 60 people held behind bars out of the more than 600 charged in the deadly riot. It's the latest attempt to downplay and deny the January violence.

Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, one of two Republicans serving on a House committee investigating the January attacks, said he supports the aggressive law enforcement efforts.

"Hopefully the overreaction of law enforcement is actually the thing that can keep this from getting out of hand," Kinzinger said in an interview Thursday. He predicted that people will criticize the effort if the protest is small and nonviolent, "but that's what needs to happen because January 6th obviously was an under-reaction and it escalated." Intelligence collected ahead of Saturday's rally has suggested that ex-



**Security fencing and video surveillance equipment has been installed around the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, ahead of a planned Sept. 18 rally by far-right supporters of former President Donald Trump who are demanding the release of rioters arrested in connection with the 6 January insurrection.**

tremist groups such as the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers will turn up. But some prominent members of the groups have sworn they aren't going and have told others not to attend. Far-right online chatter has been generally tame, and Republican lawmakers are downplaying the event. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved a request for about 100 members of the D.C. National Guard to be stationed at a city armory near the Capitol, to be called if needed as backup for other law enforcement agencies. They will primarily protect the Capitol building and congressional offices. They'll be

without firearms, but will be equipped with batons and protective vests for self-defense. Meanwhile, a Homeland Security intelligence report warned of social media posts that discussed possibly storming the Capitol the night before the rally. One user also "commented on kidnapping an identified member of Congress," the document said, though the lawmaker wasn't identified by name in the report. No lawmakers were expected to be in the building Saturday, as Congress is out of session.

"Other references to violence identified on social media include discussions of using the rally to target

local Jewish institutions, elected officials, and 'liberal churches,'" the intelligence report said.

Many commenters on online platforms popular with the far right like Telegram disavowed the rally, saying they believed law enforcement was promoting the event to entrap Trump supporters. Some urged their followers not to attend what they said was a "false flag" event they believed was secretly organized by the FBI. At the same time, however, some commenters continued to promote rallies planned for Saturday in cities and state capitals across the country. In a notice to House mem-

**Associated Press**

bers this week, Sergeant at Arms William Walker urged lawmakers to stay away from the Capitol complex on Saturday. And lawmakers who supported Trump's efforts to overturn his election defeat distanced themselves from the event. "I don't know what it is," said Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said when asked about the rally. Trump is still using his platform as the most popular leader in the GOP to express sympathy for those who were arrested and continue spreading election misinformation. In a statement Thursday, he said: "Our hearts and minds are with the people being persecuted so unfairly relating to the January 6th protest concerning the Rigged Presidential Election."

The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of court and jail records for the Capitol riot defendants to uncover how many were being detained and found about 60 held in federal custody awaiting trial or sentencing hearings. Federal officials are still looking for other suspects who could also wind up behind bars. Just Friday, a judge ordered the pretrial detention of a Pennsylvania woman who contends the court doesn't have jurisdiction over her.

At least 30 are jailed in Washington. The rest are locked up in facilities across the country. They have said they are being treated unfairly, and one defendant said he was beaten. □

## House Republican who voted to impeach Trump won't run again



**In this Feb. 11, 2020, file photo, Rep. Anthony Gonzalez, R-Ohio, speaks during a Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, on intercollegiate athlete compensation.**

**Associated Press**

**By JILL COLVIN and JULIE CARR SMYTH**

One of the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump for his role in inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol announced he will not seek reelection in Ohio next year.

U.S. Rep. Anthony Gonzalez, a former NFL player with a once-bright political future, cited his two young children for his decision and noted "the chaotic political environment that currently infects our country." He is the first Latino to represent

Ohio in Congress.

"While my desire to build a fuller family life is at the heart of my decision, it is also true that the current state of our politics, especially many of the toxic dynamics inside our own party, is a significant factor in my decisions," Gonzalez said in his statement Thursday night.

Gonzalez, 36, would have faced Max Miller in the 2022 primary. Trump has endorsed Miller, his former White House and campaign aide, as part of his bid to punish those who voted for his impeachment

or blocked his efforts to overturn the results of the election. Trump rallied for Miller this summer.

In a statement, Miller's campaign called Gonzalez's announcement "good news for the voters of our district," said Gonzalez had "dishonored the office by betraying his constituents" with his impeachment vote. Gonzalez represents northeast Ohio's 16th Congressional District, in the northeastern part of the state. The Ohio Republican Party censured Gonzalez in May for voting in February to impeach Trump. □



# Pentagon reverses itself, calls deadly Kabul strike an error

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Pentagon retreated from its defense of a drone strike that killed multiple civilians in Afghanistan last month, announcing Friday that a review revealed that only civilians were killed in the attack, not an Islamic State extremist as first believed. "The strike was a tragic mistake," Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, told a Pentagon news conference.

McKenzie apologized for the error and said the United States is considering making reparation payments to the family of the victims. He said the decision to strike a white Toyota Corolla sedan, after having tracked it for about eight hours, was made in an "earnest belief" — based on a standard of "reasonable certainty" — that it posed an imminent threat to American forces at Kabul airport. The car was believed to have been carrying explosives in its trunk, he said.

For days after the Aug. 29 strike, Pentagon officials asserted that it had been conducted correctly, despite 10 civilians being killed, including seven children. News organizations later raised doubts about that version of events, reporting that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at an American humanitarian organization and citing an absence of evidence to support the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

The airstrike was the last of a U.S. war that ended as it had begun in 2001 — with the Taliban in power in Kabul. The speed with which the Taliban overran the country took the U.S. government by surprise and forced it to send several thousand troops to the Kabul airport for a hurried evacuation of Americans, Afghans and others. The evacuation, which began Aug. 14, unfolded under a near-constant threat of attack by the Islamic State



In this Aug. 30, 2021, file photo Gen. Frank McKenzie, Commander of U.S. Central Command, appears on screen as he speaks from MacDill Air Force Base, in Tampa, Fla., as he speaks about Afghanistan during a virtual briefing moderated by Pentagon spokesman John Kirby at the Pentagon in Washington.

Associated Press

group's Afghanistan affiliate.

McKenzie, who oversaw U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, including a final evacuation of U.S. forces and more than 120,000 civilians from Kabul airport, expressed his condolences to the family and friends of those killed.

"I am now convinced that as many as 10 civilians, including up to seven children, were tragically killed in that strike," McKenzie said. "Moreover, we now assess that it is unlikely that the vehicle and those who died were associated with ISIS-K or were a direct threat to U.S. forces," he added, referring to the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate.

Prior to the strike, U.S. intelligence had indicated a likelihood that a white Toyota Corolla would be used in an attack against U.S. forces, McKenzie said. On the morning of Aug. 29, such a vehicle was detected at a compound in Kabul that U.S. intelligence in the preceding 48 hours had determined was used by the Islamic State group to plan and facilitate attacks. The vehicle was tracked by U.S. drone aircraft from that compound to numerous other locations in the

city before the decision was made to attack it at a point just a couple of miles from Kabul airport, McKenzie said.

"Clearly our intelligence was wrong on this particular white Toyota Corolla," he said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, in a written statement, apologized for what he called "a horrible mistake."

"We now know that there was no connection" between the driver of the vehicle and the Islamic State group, and that the driver's activities that day were "completely harmless and not at all related to the imminent threat we believed we faced," Austin said. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters two days after the attack that it appeared to have been a "righteous" strike and that at least one of the people killed was a "facilitator" for the Islamic State group's

Afghanistan affiliate, which had killed 169 Afghan civilians and 13 American service members in a suicide bombing on Aug. 26 at the Kabul airport.

After McKenzie's remarks on Friday, Milley expressed regret.

"This is a horrible tragedy of war and it's heart wrenching," Milley told reporters traveling with him in Europe. "We are committed to being fully transparent about this incident."

"In a dynamic high-threat environment, the commanders on the ground had appropriate authority and had reasonable certainty that the target was valid, but after deeper post-strike analysis our conclusion is that innocent civilians were killed," Milley added.

Accounts from the family of the victims, documents from colleagues seen by The Associated Press, and the scene at the family home — where Zemerai

Ahmadi's car was struck by a Hellfire missile just as he pulled into the driveway — all painted a picture of a family that had worked for Americans and were trying to gain visas to the United States, fearing for their lives under the Taliban.

The family said that when the 37-year-old Zemerai, alone in his car, pulled up to the house, he honked his horn. His 11-year-old son ran out and Zemerai let the boy get in and drive the car into the driveway. The other kids ran out to watch, and the Hellfire missile incinerated the car, killing seven children and an adult son and nephew of Zemerai.

Amnesty International, the humanitarian aid group, called the U.S. military's admission of a mistake a good first step.

"The U.S. must now commit to a full, transparent, and impartial investigation into this incident," said Brian Castner, a senior crisis adviser with Amnesty International. "Anyone suspected of criminal responsibility should be prosecuted in a fair trial. Survivors and families of the victims should be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and be given full reparation."

Rep. Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who is chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said a fuller explanation must be provided.

"We need to know what went wrong in the hours and minutes leading up to the strike to prevent similar tragedies in the future," he said.

"I am also concerned about the accuracy and completeness of public statements made in the immediate aftermath of the strike, and whether those accounted for all of the information possessed by the government at the time." □





# After Ida: Mounting trash, rising anger in New Orleans

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Garbage and debris are piling up along many New Orleans streets almost three weeks after Hurricane Ida pounded southeast Louisiana as residents react with increasing anger and, in some cases, dark humor. Several residents told a City Council committee Friday that they haven't had their garbage collected since days before the storm hit on Aug. 29.

"I was at the point of naming every maggot in my garbage and I was going to put them on my income tax as dependents," a woman told council members at City Hall. "This is not good government. This is just incompetence."

A Facebook posting calling for a "Trash Parade" march at City Hall on Saturday had drawn about 1,500 responses as of Friday afternoon. "Folks are encouraged to wear garbage bags and garbage related costumes," the post said. Mayor LaToya Cantrell's administration says much of the problem arises from labor shortages that have plagued the city for months, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic



**Bags and containers of household garbage and piles of storm debris line a New Orleans street, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

and, then, the storm. The city sought bids from companies wanting to supplement its two main waste contractors, officials said Thursday. A Sept. 8 deadline was extended to Sept. 13 due to a lack of response. After the later deadline one contractor was hired to aid trash collection efforts Thursday in

part of the city. Another contractor who bid on another area had 20 trucks available — but no labor. On Thursday, Cantrell's office announced a plan to use workers and equipment from various city agencies to supplement trash pickup. It was dubbed "Operation Mardi Gras" — a reference to the major cleanup

efforts that immediately follow the city's large Carnival season parades. Meanwhile, council members, under increasing pressure from constituents, expressed frustration with the administration. Member Jared Brossett called the mounting garbage a "public health crisis." Member Joe Giarrusso,

meanwhile, said the administration is delivering confusing messages to constituents about what will be picked up when. Aside from there being separate collection efforts for debris and household garbage, the Operation Mardi Gras workers don't have the trucks equipped with the "lifts" to pick up the 95-gallon (360-liter) garbage bins the city issues to residences. So, some crews are only collecting bags of household garbage and leaving the full bins behind for other crews.

"Do I tell them take it out of the can and put in on the side?" Giarrusso asked city Chief Administrative Officer Gilbert Montano.

Administration officials said myriad labor and logistical issues are at play in the city's efforts.

"This is the first time where we cannot throw money at a problem to solve this issue quickly," Cantrell's infrastructure chief Ramsey Green said. "We've tried that. We've been on the phone with national contractors. We did an emergency procurement ... We had no responsive bidders."□

# Ex-deputy charged with manslaughter in white teen's death



**Attorney Ben Crump stands next to Hunter Brittain's casket at the Beebe High School Auditorium before his memorial service in Beebe, Ark., on Tuesday, July 6, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

**By ANDREW DeMILLO RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (AP)** — A former Arkansas sheriff's deputy was charged Friday with manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a white teenager whose death has drawn the attention of national civil rights activists. A special prosecutor announced the felony charge

against Michael Davis, a former sergeant with the Lonoke County Sheriff's Office, in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Hunter Brittain. Davis faces between three and 10 years in prison if convicted.

Davis shot Brittain during a June 23 traffic stop outside an auto repair shop along

Arkansas Highway 89 south of Cabot, a city of about 26,000 people roughly 30 miles (48 kilometers) north-east of Little Rock.

Davis told investigators he shot Brittain once in the neck after the teen reached into the back of his truck and did not comply with his commands to show his hands, according to the arrest affidavit. Brittain was holding a container — which his family members have said held anti-freeze — and no evidence of firearms were found in or near the truck, the affidavit said.

A passenger with Brittain said he and the teen had been working on the transmission for Brittain's truck. The passenger told investigators he never heard Davis tell the teen to show his hands.

Davis, who is white, was fired by Lonoke County Sheriff John Staley in July for not turning on his body camera until after the shooting occurred. Staley said there's no footage from the shooting, only the aftermath.

Several members of Brittain's family and friends shouted, "Thank you Jesus!" as Phillips announced the charge. Arkansas State Police said Davis surrendered Friday after the warrant was issued, and Phillips said a bond hearing would be held on Monday.

Jesse Brittain, the teen's uncle, said he was glad to see Davis charged with something, though he would have preferred a more serious charge.

"This is something," he told reporters after the announcement. "We're going

to take this and see what else (Phillips) has got to say and hopefully this will stick. He won't be an officer no more and he can't kill no more kids."

An attorney for Davis said the former deputy would plead not guilty.

"While he has said all along it was a tragic event, there's no criminal act on his part," attorney Robert Newcomb said.

Brittain was eulogized by the Rev. Al Sharpton and two attorneys who represented George Floyd's family. They said the teen's death highlighted the need for interracial support for changes in policing. Brittain's family and friends have regularly demonstrated outside the Lonoke County sheriff's office, demanding more details on the shooting.□



# West Africa to impose bans, freeze assets of Guinea junta

By FRANCIS KOKUTSE Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) —

West African leaders have decided to impose travel bans and freeze financial assets of members of Guinea's ruling junta and their families after a coup more than a week ago, according to the bloc known as ECOWAS.

The decisions were announced Thursday after an Extraordinary Summit on Guinea in Ghana's capital, Accra. Mediators with the regional group had traveled to Guinea to meet with junta leaders and check on the condition of deposed President Alpha Conde.

ECOWAS president Jean Claude Brou said the West African leaders have also insisted that there should be no "need for very long transition for the country to return to democratic order."

The targeted sanctions come after Guinea's coup leaders set a number of conditions for releasing Conde, according to the foreign minister of Ghana. ECOWAS had already warned it will impose pen-



Ambassadors and foreign representations, wait for meeting with Military junta led by Col. Mamady Doumbouya, at the people's palace in Conakry, Guinea Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

alties on the junta in Guinea unless it immediately releases Conde, who has been held at an undisclosed location since being detained during the Sept. 5 coup in Conakry.

"We are coming to address a burning issue in the region," said Ghana's President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the current

chair of the regional bloc, ahead of the summit. He was joined by presidents or high-ranking officials from eight of the other 15 ECOWAS countries.

Members of the ECOWAS delegation that visited Conakry after the coup presented their reports at Thursday's meeting, said Ghanaian Foreign Minister

Shirley Ayorkor Botchway. The junta has set a number of conditions for complying with the demands of regional mediators, she said, but declined to disclose what they are.

The delegation has spoken with Conde's doctor "who ascertained that indeed physically, he's very well," she said. However, she said,

the ex-president is still coming to terms with the fact that his government has been toppled after more than a decade in power.

"For anybody who has gone through such a traumatic experience like he did, mentally, it's not the best, not to say that mentally we found anything wrong, but he was quite shocked; he's still in a state of shock," she added.

Meanwhile in Conakry, junta leaders were also set to meet with mining company representatives on the third day of a special summit to chart Guinea's political future. Junta leader Col. Mamady Doumbouya has sought to reassure the country's most vital economic sector that the political changes will not impact existing mining projects in the country, which has the world's largest reserves of bauxite.

Guinea's coup leaders have yet to make public their proposed timeframe for handing over power to a civilian transitional government, nor have they outlined how quickly new elections can be organized. □

# Woman sues for right to freeze her eggs in Beijing

By HUIZHONG WU and EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA

BEIJING (AP) —

After almost two years, an unmarried woman suing for the right to freeze her eggs in Beijing is getting her case heard in court Friday in a rare legal challenge against the country's restrictions on unmarried women in reproductive health.

Teresa Xu has been waiting since December 2019 for her second hearing at the Chaoyang People's Court in Beijing. She is suing Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital at Capital Medical University, a public hospital that forbid her from freezing her eggs, citing national law.

Xu's victory could mark an important step for unmarried women in China who want to access public benefits. Unlike in the U.S.,

though, court judgements in China do not rely on precedence.

"From 2018 until now, it's been three years, and my eggs are getting older with me, and the deadline is more and more pressing," Xu, 33, said.

Her case is getting heard after the latest census data showed that population growth was slowing, while the proportion of elderly people was growing. The number of newborns had fallen every year since 2016. National level statistics showed that 12 million babies were born in 2020, down 18% from 14.6 million in 2019.

Beijing has responded by allowing families to have a third child, and said it will revamp policy to help families who want to have children.

For decades, China had instituted a "one-child" policy. It eased the restrictions slightly in 2015 to allow families to have two kids, although that did not change the overall slowing of population growth.

Yet, some aspects of the system, such as tying reproductive health services and things like maternity benefits to a woman's marriage status, has made it difficult for some. China only allows married couples to access reproductive services and related benefits and they must be able to prove their marriage status with the license.

"I hope that the signal it sends about needing population growth will allow single women the opportunity to be able to make their own choice," Xu told reporters in front of the court.



Teresa Xu holds up cards one of which reads "My Womb, My Choice" before attending a court session at the Chaoyang People's Court in Beijing, China, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Xu visited the hospital in November 2018. When she went to the doctor, she was urged to have a child instead of freezing her eggs. The doctor also requested to see her marriage license. Xu said her court hear-

ing had been continually pushed back, owing in part to the pandemic.

She had briefly considered going abroad, but the costs — between \$15,500 to \$31,000 — were not feasible. □



## U.N.: More pledges needed to avoid 'catastrophic' climate path

**BERLIN (AP)** — A new report shows the world is on a "catastrophic pathway" toward a hotter future unless governments make more ambitious pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the head of the United Nations said Friday.

The U.N. report, reviewing all the national commitments submitted by signatories of the Paris climate accord until July 30, found that they would result in emissions rising nearly 16% by 2030, compared with 2010 levels.

Scientists say the world must start to sharply curb emissions soon, and add no more to the atmosphere by 2050 than can be absorbed, if it is to meet the most ambitious goal of the Paris accord — capping global temperature rise at 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by 2100.

The planet has already warmed by 1.1 C since pre-industrial times, experts said. "We need a 45% cut in emissions by 2030 to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century," U.N. Secretary-



In this Jan. 30, 2020 file photo, a ThyssenKrupp coking plant steams around the clock for the nearby steel mill in Duisburg, Germany.

Associated Press

General Antonio Guterres told a virtual meeting of leaders from major economies hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden.

"The world is on a catastrophic pathway to 2.7 degrees (Celsius) of heating," he added.

Some 113 countries including the United States and the European Union submit-

ted updates to their emissions targets, also known as nationally determined contributions or NDCs, by the end of July. Their pledges would result in a 12% drop in emissions for those countries by the end of the decade — a figure that could more than double if some governments' conditional pledges and assurances

about aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050 are translated into action.

"That's the positive side of the picture," said U.N. climate chief Patricia Espinosa, whose office compiled the latest report. "The other one is more sobering."

Dozens of countries, including major emitters such as China and India — the

world's No. 1 and No. 3 emitters respectively — failed to submit new pledges in time for the report.

Espinosa called for leaders at next week's annual U.N. gathering in New York to put forward stronger commitments in time for the global body's upcoming climate summit in Glasgow. "Leaders must engage in a frank discussion driven not just by the very legitimate desire to protect national interest, but also by the equally commanding goal of contributing to the welfare of humanity," she said. "We simply have no more time to spare, and people throughout the world expect nothing less."

Espinosa added that some public pledges, such as China's aim to be carbon neutral by 2060, haven't yet been formally submitted to the U.N. and so weren't taken into account for the report. An update, which would include any further commitments submitted by then, will be issued shortly before the Glasgow summit, she said. □

## WHO director: Lebanon's brain drain threat to health sector



Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaks during a press conference, in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

By **SARAH EL DEEB** Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The World Health Organization's director general on Friday expressed deep concern about the impact of Lebanon's economic meltdown and multiple crises on the wellbeing of the nation, and said the brain drain among the country's health workers is particularly worri-

some.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke following meetings with senior Lebanese officials and visits to health facilities and practitioners over the past two days. He said the country of 6 million — including over 1 million Syrian refugees — needs emergency and development support to tackle shortages of med-

icines, fuel, and structural problems such as migration of medical professionals. The brain drain is depriving the country, once a medical hub in the region, of essential human resources, he said.

On Friday, Ghebreyesus spoke to reporters at a rebuilt WHO warehouse in Karantina, an area of Beirut devastated by a massive and deadly port explosion last year that further depleted the country's already struggling health sector. The warehouse, which stored drugs and medical supplies, was destroyed in the blast and rebuilt with donor assistance.

Ghebreyesus noted that the Lebanese are not only struggling with the financial and political crises but also with the impact of the port explosion and the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is heavy. This is very heavy," he said. "I don't know if there is any country in such a situation, which is

really dire."

For months, pharmacy shelves have been bare, exacerbated by panic buying and suppliers holding back drugs, hoping to sell them later for higher prices amid plans to remove government subsidies. Hospitals are at a breaking point, barely able to secure diesel to keep generators and life-saving machines operating day to day as the cash-strapped government struggles to import basic materials.

The drug shortages threaten tens of thousands of people, including cancer patients. Medics scramble to find alternatives to medicines that are missing. Reports suggest thousands of doctors and nurses have left the country in the past year for opportunities elsewhere.

"Nurses are leaving, doctors are leaving," Ghebreyesus said. "That is very serious. Its impact will last for many years to come."

WHO's director for Lebanon, Iman Shankiti, said the organization has been helping procure medicine for cancer and critical patients; and as part of the United Nations, has helped provide fuel for several hospitals for the next two months, until a more lasting solution is found.

"It is only as we call it a band-aid, to ensure that the service continue running," Shankiti said. "The U.N. again will not be able to replace the system itself." Lebanon has been without a fully functioning government for over a year. A new government was named last week, vowing to make talks with the International Monetary Fund that could open doors to assistance from donors a priority.

Ghebreyesus said WHO will be sending a team of technical experts to help the Lebanese government formulate a solution and develop a strategic plan for reform. □



# Thousands of Haitian migrants converge on Texas border town

By ERIC GAY and ELLIOT SPAGAT

**DEL RIO, Texas (AP)** — Thousands of Haitian migrants have assembled under and around a bridge in a small Texas border town, presenting the Biden administration with a new and chaotic challenge Friday as it tries to manage large numbers of asylum-seekers who have been reaching U.S. soil.

Haitians crossed the Rio Grande freely and in a steady stream, going back and forth between the U.S. and Mexico through knee-deep water with some parents carrying small children on their shoulders. Unable to buy supplies in the U.S., they returned briefly to Mexico for food and cardboard to settle, temporarily at least, under or near the bridge in Del Rio, a city of 35,000 that has been severely strained by migrant flows in recent months.

The vast majority of the estimated 12,000 migrants at the bridge on Friday were Haitian, said Val Verde County Judge Lewis Owens, who is the county's top elected official and whose jurisdiction includes Del Rio. Some families have been under the bridge for as long as six days.

Some migrants built cave-like shelters within the reeds along the river, Owens said. Trash piles were 10 feet (3.1 meters) wide and at least two women have given birth, including one who tested positive for COVID-19 after being taken to a hospital, he said.

Haitians have been migrating to the U.S. in large numbers from South America for several years, many of them having left the Caribbean nation after a devastating earthquake in 2010. After jobs dried up from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the U.S. border, including through the infamous Darien Gap, a Panamanian jungle.

It is unclear how such a large number amassed so quickly, though many Haitians have been assembling in camps on the



Haitian migrants use a dam to cross to and from the United States from Mexico, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, in Del Rio, Texas.

Associated Press

Mexican side of the border, including in Tijuana, across from San Diego, to wait while deciding whether to attempt to enter the United States.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "We will address it accordingly," Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said on MSNBC.

Some Haitians at the camp have lived in Mexican cities on the U.S. border for some time, moving often between them, while others arrived recently after being stuck near Mexico's southern border with Guatemala, said Nicole Phillips, the legal director for advocacy group Haitian Bridge Alliance. A sense of desperation spread after the Biden administration ended its practice of admitting asylum-seeking migrants daily who were deemed especially vulnerable.

"People are panicking on how they seek refuge," Phillips said.

Edgar Rodríguez, lawyer for the Casa del Migrante migrant shelter in Piedras Negras, north of Del Rio, noticed an increase of Haitians in the area two or three weeks ago and believes that misinformation may have played a part. Migrants often make decisions on false rumors

that policies are about to change and that enforcement policies vary by city. U.S. authorities are being severely tested after President Joe Biden quickly dismantled Trump administration policies that Biden considered cruel or inhumane, most notably one requiring asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico while waiting for U.S. immigration court hearings. Such migrants have been exposed to extreme violence in Mexico and faced extraordinary difficulty in finding attorneys.

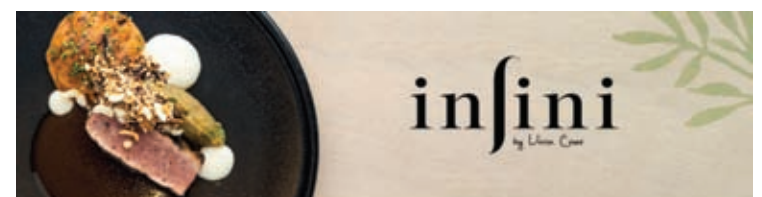
The U.S. Supreme Court last month let stand a judge's order to reinstate the policy, though Mexico must agree to its terms. The Justice Department said in a court filing this week that discussions with the Mexican government were ongoing.

A pandemic-related order to immediately expel migrants without giving them the opportunity to seek asylum that was introduced in March 2020 remains in effect, but unaccompanied children and many families have been exempt. During his first month in office, Biden chose to exempt children traveling alone on humanitarian grounds.

The U.S. government has been unable to expel many Central American families because Mexican authori-

ties have largely refused to accept them in the state of Tamaulipas, which is across from Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings. On Thursday, a federal judge in Washington blocked the administration from applying Title 42, as the pandemic-related authority is known, to any families.

Mexico has agreed to take expelled families only from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, creating an opening for Haitians and other nationalities because the U.S. lacks the resources to detain and quickly expel them on flights to their homelands. In August, U.S. authorities stopped migrants nearly 209,000 times at the border, which was close to a 20-year high even though many of the stops involved repeat crossers because there are no legal consequences for being expelled under Title 42 authority. People crossing in families were stopped 86,487 times in August, but fewer than one out of every five of those encounters resulted in expulsion under Title 42. The rest were processed under immigration laws, which typically means they were released with a court date or a notice to report to immigration authorities. U.S. authorities stopped Haitians 7,580 times in August, a figure that has increased every month since August 2020, when they stopped only 55. □



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## Ike's Bistro unveils vegan smorgasbord

**EAGLE BEACH** — Ike's bistro at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa surprises with an excellent, tasteful and varied vegan menu. Executive Chef Sandro Herold is obviously enthusiastic about the new offerings that fill up the place already. "People nowadays are a bit more conscious about what they eat. This menu offers a wide variety with creative vegan food items." We asked some of the guests about their experience: "delicious", "very tasty" "great food, great setting". Even teens, in general not too fond of health food, applauded the offerings. "We did not even miss the meat". Of course the restaurant also offers their extensive regular menu for the non-vegan guests containing all you wish From the Land or From the Sea.

Vegan is hot now, says the chef, and we had that confirmed by several guests. Ike's Bistro is an open air restaurant, located in the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. Under a huge cabana with a view to the romantically lit pool of the resort you are seated in relaxed chairs and served by great waiters. And not unimportant: Covid-19 safe.

Your senses are tickled because of the purity and freshness of the food items. You may choose for the unknown which is a three-course vegan chef tasting menu that can also be combined with a wine pairing. Or you select your choices from the menu. All dishes are 100% Vegan and are gluten-free unless labeled otherwise. Start with appetizers like Vegan Fish Taco, Chickpeas Tartare and Avocado, Spicy Buffalo Cauliflower Wings or Vegetable Tempura. Tomato Basil Soup or Lemongrass Carrot Ginger Soup are simply delicious as are the Arugula Jackfruit Salad or Mesclun Salad. For the main course pick your pick: Sesame Ginger Duck (contains gluten), Stuffed Corn Chips and Avocado, Grilled Fish Filet and Roasted Cauliflower or Truffle Porcini Risotto & Grilled Tofu. This heavenly healthy trip reaches its end destination with a scrumptious dessert: Caribbean Snickers, a must-try! All of those choices embrace your inner senses with their freshness and clear flavors.



Vegan might be on the menu in many restaurants nowadays as 'the other option', but here at Ike's Bistro they celebrate vegan and you get hooked, that is a promise. Passion, creativity, purity, dedication to a concept and a beautiful setting take care of an enchanting experience. Vegans and non-vegans are welcome, Manchebo Beach Re-

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## Swearing-in of 8 new members of Parliament

ORANJESTAD - On Friday, September 17, 2021, the swearing-in of the eight newly appointed members of Parliament took place in Cas Ceremonial di Gobernador.

They take the place of the eight members of Parliament who are moving on to a ministerial post. The new members of Parliament are:

- Alvin S.C. Molina
- Shailiny M. Tromp-Lee
- Juan E. Thijsen
- Louisette J. Christiaans-Yarzagaray
- Darlaine B. Guedez-Erasmus
- Marco A. Berlis
- Raymicheline M.J. Raymond
- Raymond A. Kamperveen

After a brief introduction by the Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Governor, the Parliament members to be sworn in were individually called to the front, where they were presented to the deputy. Governor of Aruba, Her Excellency Yvonne Laclé-Dirksz, they took the oath or made the promise. The obligation for members of the Parliament to take the oath or promise before accepting office is outlined in Article III.11 of the Constitution of Aruba. □



PALM BEACH □ Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor

Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate

is presented on the behalf of the government of Aruba as a token of appreciation and to say 'Ma-

## The Scarfo's honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba

sha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple **Mr. Frank & Mrs. Mary Joyce Scarfo** from Canada!

The Scarfo's indicated that they love our island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. They also expressed that

Aruba has the friendliest people and that the island is indeed a 'One happy island' to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa and Casino presented the Distinguished Visitor certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



## Parke Nacional Arikok

### Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

### The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176



meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some

of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction, also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

### Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok



and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

### Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was estab-

lished in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the area under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba, also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □



## Dutch Visitors honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba



**EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.**

The honorees were couple **Hajo & Ilse Vis**, from the Netherlands!

These lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, and Aruba's kind people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



# Union Pacific CEO sees strong economy coming out of pandemic

By JOSH FUNK  
AP Business Writer

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — As Union Pacific's CEO, Lance Fritz has had to find ways to keep the freight moving during the coronavirus pandemic as the economy nearly ground to a halt and then roared back to life. Now he is working to help clear up a major backlog in imported shipments.

In the spring of 2020 — at the height of the restrictions related to the pandemic — shipping volume fell more than 20% before rebounding sharply later that year. Railroads had to cut staff quickly while still making sure they had enough people to cover virus-related illnesses and quarantines before rehiring at a fast pace to handle the return in volume.

Current shipping volumes are nearly even with 2019 signaling that demand is back at pre-pandemic levels and the economy is strong, although it has weakened a bit recently as virus cases surged.

The Associated Press interviewed the 58-year-old Fritz, who also serves as the Omaha, Nebraska-based railroad's chairman and president. His responses have been edited for clarity and length.

**Q. What do you think of the bipartisan infrastructure plan that is working its way**



In this image from video, Union Pacific CEO Lance Fritz speaks during an interview at the company's headquarters in Omaha, Neb., on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

**through Congress?**

**A.** The main attribute is it about doubles the spending rate on infrastructure for the next five years — a total of about a trillion dollars. And it includes things that we think are vital to the economy: things like broadband being much more broadly accessible, true infrastructure spend on highways, on power distribution, airports, and waterways.

We think all of that supports a more vibrant economy and anything that's good for the U.S. economy — that helps the U.S. economy

grow and thrive — is very good for Union Pacific.

**Q. How does the overall economy look based on what you hear from railroad customers?**

**A.** It still feels strong. The underlying dynamic is consumers are still sitting on a lot of cash. Borrowing rates are still historically low. There's still good, strong demand for housing. There is strong demand for automobiles, but automobile production is being impacted by chip shortages. We continue to see decent strength in plastics and steel and things like soda ash that go

into very broad parts of the economy and food and refrigerated product.

It does feel like the delta variant has taken the top end of demand off a little bit. It feels firm, underlying demand, but the real heat — the very top end — looks like it has cooled off a touch, but that doesn't really cause me concern so long as the fundamentals remain in place and they look pretty good right now.

**Q. How many shipments is the railroad currently handling?**

**A.** Early in the third quarter and late in the second

quarter we were at or better than 2019 levels. More recently we've started to dip below 2019 again and that looks like it's for a lot of different reasons: maybe a little COVID delta variant impact, a little bit of congested supply chains that are retarding some of our customers' ability to produce and ship. But I think that's short term. It doesn't feel like that is long term.

**Q. Both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railroads have made headlines this year with their efforts to acquire Kansas City Southern. What do you think the implications are of the Surface Transportation Board's decision to reject part of CN's acquisition plan?**

The STB's language in their rejection of CN seeking a voting trust to acquire the KCS seemed to be pretty negative on future merger and consolidation in the rail industry. It doesn't look like the STB is going to encourage it.

What we're focused on is making sure that the process the STB takes whoever through the merger evaluation ... that it's a fair, transparent process that it includes remedies for the concerns we have and that it holds everybody to the same level of rules and standards going through that process. □

# China applies to join Pacific trade pact abandoned by Trump

**BEIJING (AP)** — China has applied to join an 11-nation Asia-Pacific free trade group in an effort to increase its influence over international policies.

Commerce Minister Wang Wentao submitted an application to the trade minister of New Zealand as a representative of the Comprehensive and Progress Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Commerce Ministry announced Thursday.

The CPTPP originally was the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a group promoted by then-President Barack Obama as part of Washington's increased emphasis on relations with Asia. Chi-

na was not included in the initial group and Obama's successor, Donald Trump, pulled out in 2017. President Joe Biden has not rejoined the group.

An official Chinese newspaper, Global Times, said the application cements Beijing's "leadership in global trade" and leaves the United States "increasingly isolated."

The CPTPP, which took effect in 2018, includes agreements on market access, movement of labor and government procurement.

Other members include Canada, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore

and Vietnam. Britain is negotiating to join. If China joins, that would quadruple the total population within the group to some 2 billion people.

China's government has promised to increase imports of goods but faces complaints it is failing to carry out promises made when it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001 to open finance and other service industries.

China is also a member of various other trading arrangements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which includes many nations in Asia that are not part of the CPTPP. □



In this May 16, 2019, file photo, from left, Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh, Singapore's Industry and Trade Minister Chan Chun Sing, Canada's Minister of International Trade Diversification James Carr, Chilean Foreign Minister Fernando Ampuero, Chilean Deputy Minister of Trade Rodrigo Yanez, Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kiyoto Tsuji, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker, and Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akimasa Ishikawa, wave as they pose for the group photo after a meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, CP TPP, in Santiago, Chile.

Associated Press



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 40 Make re-  
1 Nest insects  
6 Walker's line  
11 Devoured  
12 Bewildered  
13 Stock unit  
14 Bottled buy  
15 Aquarium fish  
17 Luau strings  
18 Hydrocarbon suffix  
19 Speaks from memory  
22 Blue  
23 Horse restraint  
24 Trait carriers  
25 Llama's cousin  
27 Chum  
30 Not as narrow  
31 Perfect serve  
32 Bright beam  
33 California mount  
35 Home  
38 Rocker John  
39 Farm towers

41 Reads over  
42 Was bold

**DOWN**

1 Squanders

2 Goddess

3 On the sofa

4 Contented sound

5 Lead the way

6 Bar topic

7 LAX info

8 Keen

9 Harry Potter's

10 Fast runners

11 Medium sessions

12 Alertness

13 "— been swell!"

14 Transcript no.

15 Like our numerals

16 Louisiana university

17 Twisty turn

18 Flock leader

19 Start of a play

20 Inclined

21 Copper alloy

22 Utah ski resort

23 Mafia head

24 Twisty turn

25 Flock leader

26 Start of a play

27 Inclined

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29 Utah ski resort

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51 Mafia head

52 Twisty turn

53 Flock leader

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LORNA DOVER  
EXIST STACK  
CUSP ASKS  
JAKE ANTI  
ESQ SLEEVES  
TAUPE ADELE  
SPELLER AMA  
SALE KNOT  
BITS LAYS  
ANITA DOWNS  
CROIX ATEUP  
HENCE MORTY

Yesterday's answer

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12  
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25 26 27 28 29  
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41 42

9-18

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

OHHBDEBO KGB UZVB OCBBG  
ETGXO — K HTZXC EBGB K  
HTZXC CEBGB KXS K UTC TJ  
YAUV ZX YBCFB BX — B  
KXSBGOTX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU ASK ME WHAT I CAME INTO THIS LIFE TO DO, I WILL TELL YOU: I CAME TO LIVE OUT LOUD. EMILE ZOLA

## Fox's vaccine criticism focuses attention on its own policy



In this March 2, 2021, file photo, Tucker Carlson, host of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," poses for photos in a Fox News Channel studio in New York.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A steady criticism of COVID vaccine mandates by figures on Fox News has drawn attention to its own company's stringent rules on the topic even from President Joe Biden.

The president was denounced as an "authoritarian" and "divider-in-chief" on Fox last week after announcing new efforts to compel more Americans to be vaccinated.

When Biden set forth a plan requiring companies with 100 or more employees to ensure their workers are fully vaccinated or show a negative COVID test at least once a week, he noted that "some of the biggest companies are already requiring this United Airlines, Disney, Tyson Foods and even Fox News."

Yet Kevin Lord, executive vice president of human resources at Fox News parent Fox Corp., said in a memo this week the company will be requiring all unvaccinated employees to be tested each day not just once a week in order to work in company facilities. The policy was first reported by CNN.

Fox last month required employees to report evidence of their status, and Lord said more than 90% of full-time employees have been fully vaccinated.

Fox's most popular prime-time host, Tucker Carlson, devoted nearly the first 20 minutes of his show

Wednesday to Biden's COVID efforts, saying the rules require people to submit to being bullied.

"You can't allow people to force you to take drugs that you don't want or that you don't need," Carlson said. "It's up to you what drugs you take, period. If you allow people to force you to take drugs you don't want, you're done. They own you. You're no longer free, period."

He interviewed comic Jim Breuer, who has said he is canceling shows at venues that require audience members to be vaccinated. Carlson said Breuer was "talking like an American man. Where are the rest of the American men?" In another interview with Carlson, former CBS News reporter Lara Logan compared Biden's plans to Marxism and Nazism.

"All of it is about control," she said.

Onscreen chyrons read "No surprise: Biden's rules are incoherent" and "Fauci wants to ban human interaction."

Fox was attacked from the right by a former employee, Eric Bolling. Now

on the conservative network Newsmax, Bolling said Wednesday night that network leaders are pushing the wrong policies.

"So while Fox hosts bemoan and complain about the liberals who are forcing Americans to get vaccinated, they themselves are doing the same thing and that is the textbook definition of hypocrisy," he said. Bolling said he's vaccinated himself, "by choice," and said Newsmax encourages its employees to get vaccinated but doesn't require it. Bolling was ousted from Fox News in 2017 following reports that he had sent unwanted lewd pictures to women who worked with him at the network.

A Fox spokesperson declined comment on Bolling or other criticism of a disconnect between company policy and opinions expressed by its personnel. To be clear, also, while it will be requiring daily COVID tests for the unvaccinated, Fox isn't mandating shots.

No Fox on-air personality has addressed the company's COVID policies.

CNN requires its employees who work in the office or in the field with colleagues to be vaccinated, and last month fired three people for violating that rule.

A memo sent by Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott last month outlined Fox's requirement that employees report their vaccination status.

Scott said then that masks were optional for people who had been fully vaccinated, but were strongly encouraged in public buildings and required in small places, like broadcast control rooms. □

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24/7



## 'New' Van Gogh drawing to go on display in Amsterdam museum

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — A drawing newly attributed to Vincent van Gogh that has never been displayed publicly before is going on show at the Amsterdam museum that bears the Dutch master's name.

The "new" Van Gogh, "Study for 'Worn Out,'" from November 1882, is part of a Dutch private collection and was known to only a handful of people, including a few from the Van Gogh Museum.

The owner, who is remaining anonymous, asked the museum to determine if the unsigned drawing is by Van Gogh.

From the style, to the materials used — a thick carpenter's pencil and coarse watercolor paper — it conforms to Van Gogh's Hague drawings, Senior Researcher Teio Meedendorp said Thursday.

There are even traces of damage on the back linking it to the way Van Gogh used wads of starch to attach sheets of paper to drawing boards.

"It's quite rare for a new work to be attributed to Van Gogh," the museum's director Emilie Gordenker said in a statement. "We're proud to be able to share this early drawing and its story with our visitors."

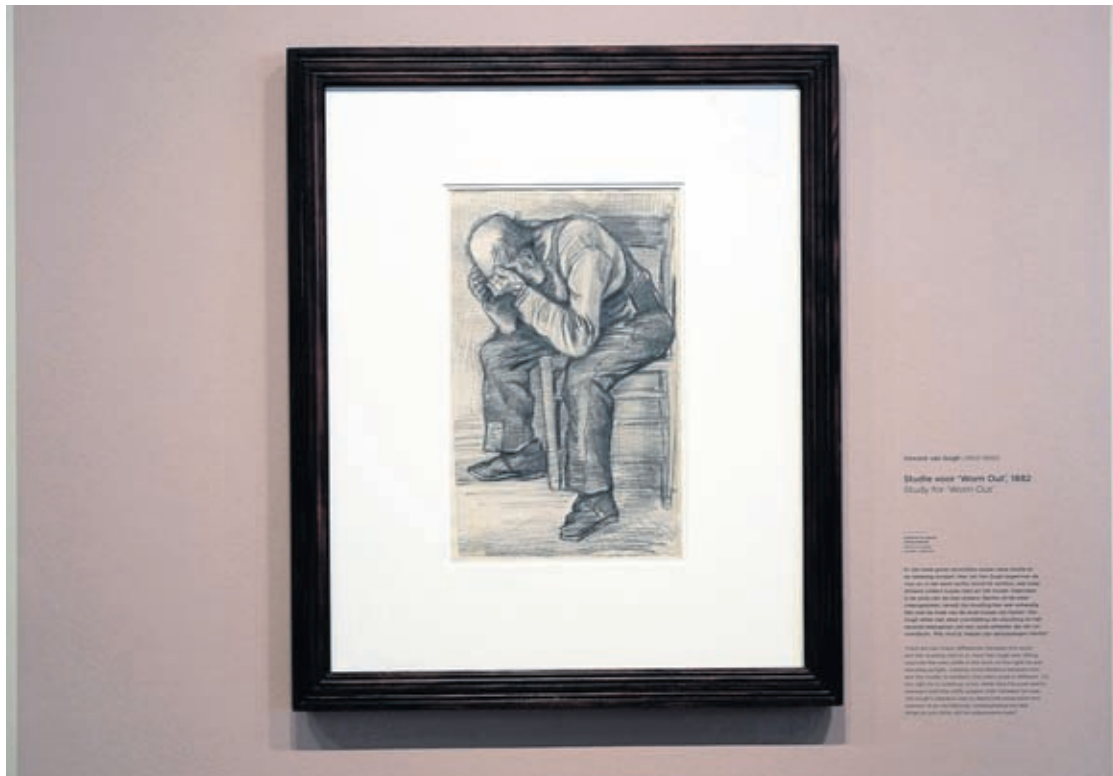
It comes from a time in the artist's career when he was working to improve his skills as a painter of people and portraits by drawing them. Over and over again.

The museum already owns the almost identical drawing, "Worn Out."

"It was quite clear that they are related," Meedendorp said.

The study has been loaned to the museum and goes on show from Friday through Jan. 2.

It shows an elderly, balding man sitting, hunched forwards, on a wooden chair, his balding head in his hands. Even the model's



The Study for "Worn Out", a drawing by Dutch master Vincent van Gogh, dated Nov. 1882, goes on public display for the first time at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021.

pants appear to conform to the English title — a patch is clearly visible on the right leg. It is a far cry from the vibrant oil paintings of vases of sunflowers and French landscapes that eventually turned the tormented Van Gogh — after his death in 1890 — into one of the world's most famous artists, whose works have garnered astronomical prices at auction. Instead, it illustrates how as a young artist in practicing his craft in The Hague in 1882, Van Gogh had to confront an uncomfortable truth.

"He discovered that he lacked the ability to paint people. So he was already drawing them but he liked to paint," Meedendorp said. "So in order to be able to paint people as well he went back to the drawing board."

Van Gogh, who was famously reliant on his brother Theo's generosity throughout his life, gave the drawings an English title in a bid to build a bit of name recognition and possibly even land a job at an illustrated magazine.

"In his mind, he had an

idea that he would reach out farther than Holland in the end as an artist," Meedendorp said. □

Associated Press



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# Hendrick stars dodging playoff elimination at Bristol

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

A surprisingly strong start to the playoffs for Joe Gibbs Racing — two races, two wins and two drivers locked into the second round — has put Hendrick Motorsports in a precarious position headed into the first elimination race.

Alex Bowman and William Byron both start Saturday night's race at Bristol Motor Speedway below the cutline, and reigning series champion Chase Elliott isn't breathing any easier than his Hendrick teammates.

Elliott is only 19 points to the good, which means a poor finish could make for a fast ending to his attempt at repeating as Cup champion. Four drivers will be cut from the 16-driver field after the race, and only Hendrick driver and regular-season champion Kyle Larson, as well as Denny Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. on consecutive playoff-opening JGR wins, have secured spots in the second round.

But the field is at least tight — only 30 points separate Kevin Harvick in sixth from Tyler Reddick in 14th — and Bristol is the kind of track that can totally flip the standings. The .533-mile concrete bullring in northeast Tennessee can be a beast with progressive banking that goes from 24 to 28 degrees on a racing surface just 40 feet wide.

It's tight quarters, traffic can often be an impediment, and lack of patience or loss



William Byron (24) and Kyle Busch (18) race into turn one during the NASCAR Cup series auto race in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

of tempers can easily alter the outcome.

Byron called Bristol a playoff track with "the most opportunity for mistakes and the biggest opportunity for success."

"There's not much difference between the good cars and the bad ones," Byron continued. "It's a very tough place to get around. It's just the most unpredictable race of the (first) round."

Bowman is 13th in the standings, the first driver below the cutline, but technically tied with Kurt Busch for 12th. Bowman has won a career-high three races this season, which at the start of the playoffs tied him with Truex Jr. and Ryan

Blaney with second most to Larson's Cup-leading five victories.

But he's not been good enough through the first two playoff races. He was sixth at Bristol in the spring, but that race was run on dirt and delayed a day by dangerous rain and flooding.

Still, Bowman said he's confident at Bristol and has faith in the No. 48 team.

"I don't think there's a sense of urgency (but) I don't think we expected to be in this situation," Bowman said. "We know we need to go execute and go have a good day. We know it's not going to be easy by any means."

"But we also know that if

something goes wrong and we don't make it to the next round, there are still more opportunities for us to win races this year."

## MCDOWELL MIRACLE

It would take an upset not unlike his stunning Daytona 500 victory for Michael McDowell to advance out of the first round.

McDowell's shock victory to win NASCAR's season-opening version of the Super Bowl earned him his first career playoff berth, but his Front Row Motorsports team is the underdog and it showed.

A crash to open the playoffs at Darlington and three speeding penalties and a 24th-place finish at Richmond has McDowell last in

the standings and in need of another improbable victory to advance. He likes Bristol, but in 21 career starts has an average finish of 30th.

He was 10th on the dirt this spring, 14th a year ago.

"Overall, this season has been great. It's been a career year for me and a career year for Front Row," McDowell said. "We have more speed and more potential in our race cars and more top-10s and more top-fives than we've ever had, so on the overall scale it's been a great year."

"What's so disappointing about it for me and for all of our guys is that it's been mistakes," McDowell said. "I'm very disappointed in myself and I'm very disappointed on how these first two rounds of the playoffs have gone."

## 23XI EXPANSION

Bubba Wallace will have a new crew chief starting at Bristol as 23XI Racing has made the early move to push Mike Wheeler into competition director.

Wheeler was always going to be the competition director for the new race team owned by Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan, but also spent this season atop the box for Wallace. With 23XI expanding to two cars next year with Wallace and Kurt Busch, Wheeler will now focus on his main role.

Bootie Barker will be Wallace's crew chief beginning this weekend. □

# Pelé takes 'a little step back' in recovery from surgery



In this Dec. 1, 2017 file photo, Brazilian soccer legend Pelé attends the 2018 soccer World Cup draw in the Kremlin in Moscow.

Associated Press

By MAURICIO SAVARESE  
AP Sports Writer

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Brazilian soccer great Pelé "took a little step back" in his recovery from surgery to remove a tumor from his colon, his daughter Kely Nascimento said Friday, but he is "recovering well" at a Sao Paulo hospital. She did not comment on local media reports saying the 80-year-old Edson Arantes do Nascimento is back in intensive care. Kely Nascimento posted a

picture with her father on Instagram which she said she had just taken in his room at the Albert Einstein hospital.

"He is recovering well and within normal range.

Promise!" Kely Nascimento said. "The normal recovery scenario for a man of his age after an operation like this is sometimes two steps forward and one step back. Yesterday he was tired and took a little step back."

"Today he took two for-

wards!" she added, without giving more details. The hospital has not issued new statements on Pelé's health since Tuesday, when he was removed from intensive care.

The tumor was found when Pelé went for routine exams at the end of August. His surgery took place on Sept. 4.

Pelé won the 1958, 1962 and 1970 World Cups, and remains Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 matches. □



# Aaron Donald turns 30, closes in on more records for Rams

By **GREG BEACHAM**

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)** — No matter how many sacks Aaron Donald racks up, he doesn't stop thinking about the quarterbacks who got away.

Donald's first game in his 30s last Sunday looked like most of his performances from his 20s for the Los Angeles Rams. The most dominant defensive lineman of the previous seven NFL seasons harassed the Bears' entire offense, constantly drawing double teams and altering Chicago's game plan in the Rams' season-opening 34-14 victory.

Donald essentially ended the Rams' blowout win by sacking Andy Dalton on fourth down with 2:18 to play. But that moment faded from his mind in comparison to a play earlier in the fourth quarter in which Dalton escaped his grasp, only to run into a sack by linebacker Justin Hollins.

"I don't know what was going on," Donald said with a grimace Thursday. "I was letting plays just slip out of my hands. I've been working on my grip all week, making sure that everything will be good. I changed my gloves. They're not getting away no more. I missed the play, but (Hollins) cleaned it up. I was more disappointed in myself, but happy for him."

As Donald closes in on the



In this Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, file photo, Los Angeles Rams defensive end Aaron Donald reacts during the second half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

Rams' career sacks record this week when the Rams visit Indianapolis (0-1), the three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year shows zero signs of slippage after 30.

Donald leads the NFL in sacks since his rookie season with 86 1/2, although he's barely holding off Chandler Jones (84 1/2) after the Arizona star's five-sack opener. Donald also leads the league in tackles for loss (132) by a wide margin during his career.

With one more sack, he will tie Leonard Little for the Rams franchise record — although the record books don't officially count

the prolific career of Hall of Famer Deacon Jones, who played for Los Angeles from 1961-71 and coined the phrase "sack the quarterback."

Perhaps even more impressively, Donald is attempting to complete a remarkable achievement this Sunday: He is just beginning his eighth NFL season, but he already has a sack against every team except the Colts.

The Rams have only faced Indy once during his career, and Donald didn't play in that 2017 game because he ended his contract holdout earlier that day, which also happened to

be Sean McVay's coaching debut.

"I'm eager to get out there and play a game and win a game," Donald said when asked if he is eager to complete his full NFL set of sacks.

New life decade, same A.D. — in almost every way, he says with a grin.

"I feel the same," Donald said. "I feel good. Man, I feel strong. I feel like I look good. I feel fast. I feel explosive. If anything, I feel a little smarter out there, as far as understanding certain things to play a little faster. It's just the aches and pains at times last a little longer. So that's it."

A 30th birthday can be a time for reflection, but Donald is keeping any existential insights to himself since reaching the milestone in May. In fact, more has changed off the field than on it for the cornerstone of the NFL's No. 1 defense in 2020: That's because Donald's wife, Erica, recently gave birth to his third child, a boy named Aaric — a combination of his parents' names.

"That's everything to me. That's first," he said about fatherhood. "That comes before anything. Being able to be there for my kids, provide for my kids, having them in my life, being a real Dad. Not just be able to provide financially, but being in their lives to teach them good, bad, wrong, all types of things."

Donald even handles the potential downsides of a newborn with skill.

"No, I've been getting good sleep," Donald said. "I have a little bit more motivation this year. ... I'm just blessed. I'm happy. It's just more motivation for me, you know?"

The last thing the rest of the NFL needs is Donald with extra motivation, but he's still pushing toward another Super Bowl with the Rams, who might have taken the significant step forward on offense necessary to keep up with their own impressive defense. □

# 'Hard Knocks' to showcase Colts for first in-season episodes

By **JOE REEDY**

The "Hard Knocks" franchise will have regular-season episodes for the first time when "Hard Knocks In Season: The Indianapolis Colts" debuts on Nov. 17 on HBO. NFL Films announced the series during halftime of Thursday night's game between the New York Giants and Washington Football Team.

It will be the Colts' first appearance on "Hard Knocks," which debuted in 2001 by following the Baltimore Ravens through training camp as they began defense of their Super Bowl title. The Dallas Cowboys

recently wrapped up the 16th edition of the documentary series, becoming the first to make three appearances.

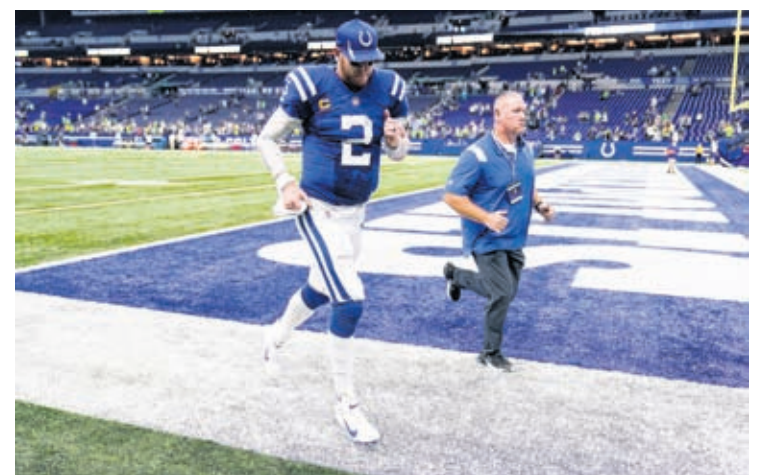
The Colts series will have at least nine episodes on Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. ET.

"We could not be more thrilled to bring Hard Knocks and the remarkable behind-the-scenes access it provides to the NFL regular season," NFL Films senior executive Ross Ketover said in a statement. "For years, fans have clamored for expanding the Hard Knocks world to include an in-season edition, and thanks to

HBO, along with the incredible cooperation from the Colts, we are able to deliver."

NFL Films did four years of the "All or Nothing" series for Amazon Prime Video, where it followed a team for the entire season, but those episodes were not available until the following summer.

The Colts are trying to make a return trip to the playoffs but dropped their opener to the Seattle Seahawks. Indianapolis traded for quarterback Carson Wentz during the offseason, and linebacker Darius Leonard was the NFL Defensive



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Carson Wentz (2) runs off the field following a 28-16 loss to the Seattle Seahawks in an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

Rookie of the Year in 2018. The series also could show-

case coach Frank Reich, who is in his fourth season. □



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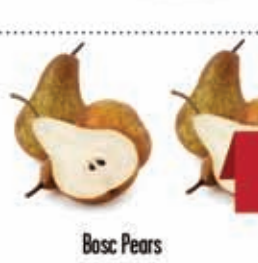


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